

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10-11, 14-29, and 32-35 were pending in the present application. By virtue of this response, claim 11 has been cancelled, claims 1, 15, 22, 28, and 33 have been amended, and no new claims have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-8, 10, 14-29, and 32-35 are currently under consideration. Claims 15, 28, and 33 have been amended to correct typographical errors. Support for the amendment to claim 22 can be found in the specification at paragraph [0037]. Support for additional amendments to claims 1 and 28 can be found in the specification at paragraphs [0034] and [0035]. No new matter has been added.

Amendment and cancellation of certain claims is not to be construed as a dedication to the public of any of the subject matter of the claims as previously presented.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-8, 10, 14-18, 20-29, 32-33, and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Ryan et al. (U.S. Publication No.2003/0191495 A1).

Applicant respectfully disagrees. However, in the interest of furthering prosecution, independent claims 1 and 28 have been amended to include a plurality of protrusions located on a surface of the first and second anchor members where the protrusions assist in retaining the anchor members on deployment. Applicant is unable to find any teaching or suggestion in Ryan regarding protrusions on a surface of the anchor members.

In view of the above, Applicant believes this rejection is overcome with respect to claim 1 and 28, and any claims ultimately dependent therefrom.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 19 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ryan et al. (2003/0191495 A1) in view of Ory et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,692,506) or Thill et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0028213 A1).

In response, Applicant contends that in light of the amendments and remarks above, all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Claim Objections

Claims 11 and 22 are objected to because of informalities relating to claim 1. In response,

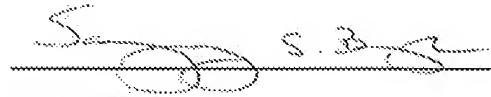
Applicant respectfully disagrees. However, in the interest of furthering prosecution, claim 11 has been cancelled and claim 22 has been amended to clarify the fastener material. Applicant contends that in light of the amendments and remarks above, all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim objections.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejections and pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the appropriate fee and/or petition is not filed herewith and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with this filing to Deposit Account No. 50-3973 referencing Attorney Docket No. LAUFNZ00200. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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